The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service is the official source and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WHOLE NO. 1999 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 31

As We See It

The following is excerpted from an interview by News Commentator James G. Crowley with Senator James Murray of Montana on the AFL's "As We See It" radio program broadcast over the American Broadcasting System:

MR. CROWLEY: It is curious, ladies and gentlemen, how things fit together.

Jess Larson, general services administrator, issued a statement pointing out how essential to the national welfare it is that we have at hand, ready for use when needed, a large backlog or shelf of plans for public works: bridges, highways, new schools, and so forth, so that there be no waste motion, no lost earning power, no lost productivity when, as, and if the number of unemployed in this country reaches a level that demands all-out action. He pointed that we do not have such a shelf—no congressional provision for one.

At the same time, Gov. Bowles of Connecticut announced that now—right now—20 percent of his state's working force is unemployed.

Gov. Dever of Massachusetts, at the same time, announced that unemployment in his state has reached the critical level, the state of affairs which he said threatens to spread throughout all of the New England states very soon.

Now, the economists for the American Federation of Labor are not included in that group which believes that unemployment naturally will cure anything like a critical stage. American Federation of Labor economists are not included in that group which believes that a great depression is upon us or that it cannot be avoided. It can be and must be.

The American Federation of Labor, however, as you and your reporter, is very much concerned over the existence in some quarters of a strange kind of philosophy which looks with enmity upon each little bit of information as were imparted to us by Govs. Bowles and Dever and Federal Works Administrator Larson—the kind of philosophy which looks with uneasiness upon the roughly 4 million who are unemployed today.

Now, it so happens that soon after the announcements referred to were made, I chanced to be watching television and I noticed that the Supreme Court Chamber where the Senate now sits, and bumped into my old and good friend Senator Murray of Montana of the Congress.

I asked Senator Murray what he thought of the idea to repair the roof when the weather is good so that it will be the reluctant thing to weather a few weeks ago, and if 10 billion dollars were flung then immediately into the Senate a measure designed to prevent the very thing that the governors of the two great states were concerned about today: unemployment of any kind, let alone critical unemployment. This measure is known as the Economic Expansion Act of 1949.

Now, just to see what happened—what philosophy blocks measures of this kind, let us turn to Senator Murray and ask him if he believes that the enactment of his bill or one similar to it would be a step in the right direction.

SENATOR MURRAY: Well, I think it is most essential. I cannot understand how the country would be willing to sit back and not take the right steps immediately to meet these developing economic conditions. If we do not provide against them and anticipate the day of depression and meet them say it should—some people claim that we should let business alone; and that these depressions are a good thing—I don't think it is unsound economics, it seems to me. We don't need depressions. It is not necessary to have them, and it has a serious effect upon the morale and welfare of all of the people and upon the welfare of the whole population.

MR. CROWLEY: Senator Murray, I believe you told me a short while ago, that in your opinion, it will be necessary for the Congress of Congress should take action on this; what likelihood is there that the current session of Congress will or can?

SENATOR MURRAY: Well, I doubt very much if this bill could be acted upon at the current Congress because there are so many other matters that will have precedence that it would be impossible to get this bill on the floor at this session.

MR. CROWLEY: So that it would seem then that we are up against a funny kind of situation: Depression? First, that passage of the act at this session is essential; and, second, that its passage at this session is unlikely—that there is too much else that takes precedence.

That undoubtedly is true—that there is a lot of other matter that demands the attention of Congress. However, there undoubtedly is involved the question of opposition to the measure, their families and registered voters. Murray. If there were no organized opposition to such proposals, there would be no question of their being enacted. Therefore, don't you think that some of the more classic kinds of opposition, and get the Senator's reaction.

"We might as well be acquainted with the kind of thing is up against, so let's try this one first. All of these have been called from the Congressional Record.

There was, for example, the business man who wrote that "private competitive capital needs a large unemployment reserve." He wrote that he believed unemployment was necessary to maintain labor discipline, and to keep wages down.

Then, there was Mr. John Skolvel of the chief of economists for the Chrysler Corporation, who recently told the Economic Club of Detroit that "We can have as much unemployment as we are willing to pay for." Skolvel also argued that the right to a job was not guaranteed—don't suffer, and that he preferred the old American slogan, "Root, hog; or die." Senator Murray?

SENATOR MURRAY: Well, I think that every American should revolt at such philosophy as that. It seems to me that the Government is passed out in this country. People are coming to recognize that human rights should be given precedence over property rights. Human rights, it seems to me that we have passed that age and these people who talk that way are not talking sound economics or sound sense.

MR. CROWLEY: Then there was Mr. Rufus Tucker, General Motors economist who, according to the Chicago Tribune, said: "The moral obligation to keep any citizens from starving can be more adequately and cheaply fulfilled in other ways than by providing jobs." And the New York State Chamber of Commerce approved a report which maintained that depressions are the "price we pay for over-expansion." Murray?

SENATOR MURRAY: That is an outmoded doctrine in this country. We got over that in the last depression, it seems to me; and that we have come now to realize that when the danger of a depression appears we must meet it in a more civilized manner—in a manner more consistent with sound American economics; and that is what we propose to do here with this bill. When the original bill was filed in 1946, it was attacked along the same lines. We had very largely come out of the days of the depression then and claimed that it was taken out of the Constitution of the Soviet Republic, but it was passed by Congress and signed into law as one of the best American business men that we have in this country supporting it, and some of the ablest economists and engineers are now supporting this measure. Some of the best, leading business men in the United States are coming to see that we must have a measure of this kind.

MR. CROWLEY: Next, there was the head of an advertising firm in Des Moines, Iowa, who wrote an article praising the value of depressions.

One sentence in an editorial said, "It is to be hoped that depressions are never abolished because they have certain definite benefits." A few days later the editors of the Wall Street Journal wrote an editorial entitled "The Coming Recession," and in it they observed that: "A mild recession that dispels the boom psychology would be a welcome guest." The Journal of Commerce declared editorially, "Perhaps the greatest lesson in our economic history lies in the fact that after each set-back, our economy has come back stronger; the only thing to be afraid of today is that we may be talked into giving up this pattern of progress."

All of this was pretty well encapsulated by Dr. John L. Clark, a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, when he said, and again I quote, "We have had presented to us repeatedly in our conferences with representatives of business the proposal that the best thing that could happen would be to have a larger degree of unemployment so that then there might be at the factory gates each morning a list of job hunters, because that would make labor more docile and more productive." Senator Murray?

SENATOR MURRAY: Well, there are many who hold that belief, of course, but if you will analyze the situation, you will find that those who hold to that belief do not suffer in any depression. They don't suffer. They do not realize that in these depressions some one must suffer, and it is the small, independent business men. Big corporations can withstand them. They continue to receive their huge salaries and bonuses and all, through the depression.

Through the last depression, for instance, every large corporation in the United States or even had money left over for dividends, and their salaries men were being ruined. Now, any philosophy that would justify that, seems to me to be completely unconscionable and unpatriotic for anyone in this country.

MR. CROWLEY: You mentioned small business men who are ruined, Senator; you haven't said a word about the American working man and working women who are ruined and whose families are torn apart.

SENATOR MURRAY: Well, that is true. We had witnesses who appeared before our committee who referred to that very situation—that these great depressions have a tremendous effect upon the lives of people, upon children growing up in a period of that kind when they see their parents suffering as a result of ill—ot of employment. They are unable to furnish them with food and educate them. Why, it has a very serious effect upon their mentality and their health, and their philosophy and their future lives. So that is one of the things we should try to avoid if we want to have good, sound American citizens.

AFL Wins Prudential Election

New York City.—The American Federation of Labor won the right to represent the 15,000 insurance agents of the Prudential Life Insurance Co. after a hotly contested NLRB election covering 31 states.

The Prudential agents voted, 7,405 to 4,789 for the United Federal Workers of Insurance Agents Council (AFL) as their collective bargaining representative. They were formerly represented by the United Office and Professional Workers of the CIO.

George L. Harrison, president of the National Federation of Insurance Agents Council, said the workers became fed up a year ago with the communist leadership of their CIO union and appealed to the AFL to step into the picture. The organization drive has been going on since last September.

AFL President William Green congratulated Mr. Russ and Harry O'Reilly, AFL organizers principally on the successful outcome of the election campaign and predicted that the AFL will eventually win over all the insurance agents in the nation.

For Use in Labor Day Editions:

Political Keynote Sounded By Keenan For Labor Day

By JOSEPH D. KEENAN
Director, Labor's League for Political Education

On this Labor Day, two questions come to mind: (1) How much progress have we made in the last year? (2) How do things look for the year ahead?

We of Labor's League for Political Education have tried to answer these questions as we look back on the first session of the 81st Congress and plan for the 1950 election campaign.

First, how good—or bad—is the 81st Congress? Do we have sufficient legislative results to show for our hard campaigning in 1948?

Let's look at the record of the Congress:

We finally have adequate housing legislation." Since before World War II the building industry has been unable to provide enough new housing quarters for persons with low incomes. We also have slum clearance legislation, federal aid to builders, etc. But the record of the present Congress also reveals that we have a lot more work ahead of us.

To get a decent housing program started, we need to re-elect all of our friends and, in addition, elect 15 to 20 more liberals to the House and at least 3 more liberal Senators.

And all of us should be at work on the 1950 campaign. Our enemies have started pouring their millions of dollars into the 1950 campaign. We must get busy, too, although November 7, 1950, is more than a year away.

Now, what do we do about political education and political action in an year in which there is no election?

Register! If your city has permanent registration, organize a drive to get all members of your union, their families and registered voters registered so they can vote in 1950.

If you have permanent registration in your area, make plans now to register the members of your union, their friends and families when the time permits you to do so.

Trade unionists everywhere should compare their membership rolls with registration lists to see how much the membership is below par—a condition that frequently half of the members of a local union were not registered. Let's not let that happen again in 1950.

Run contests to spur interest in registration. Have your members write essays, jingles or slogans on the importance of registering and voting. Award prizes for the best entries.

Between elections we must remind people what is happening in their Congress, in their legislatures, in their city councils and in their county courts. We must tell our neighbors about the good deeds performed for the people. And we also must point out the "right" votes and actions of those representing us.

During the periods between elections we also have to let our Congressmen and Senators and other representatives in the public service know how we feel about their work. A personal letter from a constituent gets attention—in Congress, Hill or in a state legislature.

When your Congressman or Senator comes home during the congressional recess, get out to see him. Be glad to talk with him. Be glad to talk with him and get your ideas on what should be done in Washington to help make your job easier.

Labor must work in cooperation with its legislative friends, but it must also work together with other liberal forces in America. That was the reason for Labor's League for Political Education. We need to set up such leagues in every city, in every county and in every precinct if we are to have a true liberal majority in Congress next year. We have to organize for political action and for victory in 1950 if we are to have any hope for progressive legislation.

So let us remember this on Labor Day, 1949:

Last November was a day of triumph for workers throughout this nation.

But 1948 was only the beginning for Labor's League for Political Education. The real job is ahead of us in 1950 and 1952.

For only through the work and cooperation of every trade unionist in the United States can we secure victory—and not for all the forces that are threatening the freedom of the working people.

For Use in Labor Day Editions:

Pittsburgh Labor Day Parade Planned as Mass T-H Protest

Pittsburgh.—Plans for a huge Labor Day parade in protest against the failure of Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley law were announced here by the Pittsburgh Central Labor Union and the Committee for Action of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Committees in charge of the demonstration planned the parade would also be the greatest show of worker strength in the history of Pennsylvania's area.

All of the 250,000 local union members of the AFL in the Pittsburgh area will be called upon to participate.

This Labor Day parade will be the first to be held on Monday in prewar days.

In deciding on the demonstration, its sponsors declared a firm conviction that there can be no hope of future progress nor the enjoyment of the free way of American life for the wage earners of our country while Taft-Hartleyism is any of its various forms remains on the statute books.

The full impact of these reactionary laws have not yet been felt by labor generally but as time goes on their various provisions can stifle the growth of organized labor, weaken the trade union movement in the land and make it increasingly difficult for American men and women to keep their heads above water.

Among the speakers will be Jos. President James L. McDevitt, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, said:

"The answer to labor's sharp defeat on T-H repeal lies in more and intensified political action between the nation's working men and women and their union representatives.

"The defeat of organized labor by the 81st Congress in its effort to repeal the T-H law will weld organized labor into a solid, powerful political organization by 1950. In Pennsylvania alone, 700,000 members of the American Federation of Labor will answer the challenge at the polls in successful 1949 campaign is vital to prepare labor for 1950 victory."

NEW MINIMUM WAGE BILL COMPROMISE DUE TO PASS

Washington.—House administration leaders have agreed to a compromise \$1 an hour minimum wage bill, it was revealed.

The compromise would eliminate some scores of workers but cover some new ones. There would be a net increase of about 115,000 workers covered by the minimum wage act, about 200,000 by the maximum hours sections.

GOP, Dixiecrats Denounced By Meany as Labor's Enemies

AFL Official Assails Record of Tories In Blunt Talk

Syracuse, N.Y.—In a clashing attack upon the reactionaries from both parties responsible for retention of the Taft-Hartley Act, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany denounced Dixiecrat Senators "as wolves in sheep's clothing" and the Republican Party leadership as "the tool of the big corporations that control the country and direct the most powerful corporations."

These reactionaries are due for a rising surprise in 1950, Mr. Meany predicted, if the members of organized labor and their families and friends make certain to register and vote, "because the American worker today doesn't vote the way the corporations have ordered him to vote."

Mr. Meany's blunt political charges against the enemies of labor were delivered in an address distributed for delivery at the convention of the New York State Federation of Labor here.

Without pulling his punches, Meany named Senator Byrd of Virginia, Senator Eastland of Mississippi and Senator Gurney of South Dakota as "Dixiecrats," whose group "all of whom might more accurately be called Tories" threaten from the Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers' Association members."

After reviewing labor's unsuccessful efforts to obtain action on repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act in the last session of Congress and after detailing the "unconscionable maneuvers" of the AFL leaders—short of the antistrike law—which labor will never swallow—Mr. Meany really went to town against the Republicans. He said:

"Before I close I want to call attention to the record of the 81st Congress of our major political parties. I refer to the Republican Party. There are some good men in the Republican Party, but they are woefully out numbered.

"Let's be frank about that. What is the Republican Party trying to do? Is it determined to commit suicide? It certainly would appear that way to the observer.

"Look what happened in 1948. The Democratic Party was split 3 ways. There were, first of all, the regular Democrats. Then there were the re-called Dixiecrats, the reactionaries who walked out of the national convention and set up their own candidate. Finally, there was the group led by Henry Wallace, made up of Communists and fellow travelers.

"And yet the Republican Party, confronted with a situation that surely seemed ideal from its standpoint, lost the election overwhelmingly. And that time the Republicans elected their President, and Congress was swept back in 1948.

"But it's time that the Republican Party stopped to consider what the reasons for it are. Does the Republican Party want to go along in the same old way, with no progressive thought and never learning anything, until the time comes when it is relegated to the scrap heap of history?

"What is the trouble with the Republican Party? Why has it been unable to elect a President since 1928? The answer is obvious. The Republican Party has been consistently because it has had no program to offer to the people. The party has made itself the tool of the comparatively small number of people who are powerful and direct the most powerful corporations. What those people want, the Republican Party has leaped to obey. Because of that fact, Secretary, the Taft and like-minded Republicans have become the main champions of industry.

"I don't believe that this formula used to work very nicely. It worked fine from the 1890's to the 1920s and it worked, to be frank about it, right up to the time when we elected Hoover and began the stock market crash of 20 years ago.

"Yes, it used to be a successful formula. But it won't work. The American worker today doesn't vote the way corporation executives sometimes advise him to vote. The Republican Party has to make a decision—and it has to make it pretty soon. It has to decide whether it is keep on with its asinine hope that it can hoodwink the voters as it has in the past or whether it is going to stand firth as the party of greed and the party that places shackles on free American labor to please the big campaign contributors. It will continue to go down to defeat."

IRVING BROWN SPEAKS ON ROME BROADCAST

Rome, Italy.—Irving Brown, representative in Europe of the American Federation of Labor, will participate in a forum discussion emanating from here which will be broadcast to the United States on August 6 from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m., EDT, over the NBC network.

The program is one of a series entitled "Americans the World Over," which are being presented each Saturday through October 1 by the Town Hall Meeting of the Air under the direction of George V. Denny, Jr.

British Building Workers To Observe U.S. Methods

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News-Service

New York.—Six members of British construction unions are currently visiting the United States as part of a labor-management delegation from Britain's building industry and are getting ample opportunity to meet U. S. construction workers.

The British visit is sponsored by the Economic Cooperation Administration through the American Council on Productivity over which Lee Minion, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers Assn., is now serving.

The team will view building and construction in its various stages in leading eastern and mid-western cities and return with recommendations for the British building industry. The team is composed of bricklayers, plasterers, housing, apartments, hospitals, schools, commercial buildings and industrial plants.

On its arrival here, the team was welcomed by John J. Brennan, secretary-treasurer of the Greater New York Building and Construction Trades Council and AFL American construction workers are going to be marketed at lower prices.

After a Washington visit, where their hosts were the Washington Building and Construction Trades Council, the team is to return here and a delegation of New York construction workers will visit Britain to study the methods and various projects now under way.

Their itinerary will include:

August 15-17, Chicago; August 18-21, Detroit; August 22-24, Cleveland; August 25-27, Buffalo, and August 28-September 1, Boston. The team returns to England September 4.

The labor members are: James F. Bates, plumber; Francis W. Bolton, bricklayer; Arthur Deakin, general secretary of the Building Operatives; William R. Johnstone, carpenter; William J. Clarke, plasterer; Glynn Lloyd, painter, and John H. McKechnie, bricklayer.

Union Civil Service Expert to Probe Chicago's Tangled City Job Rules

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—Col. A. E. Garey of Madison, Wis., a nationally known expert in civil service and retirement systems, has been asked by the Chicago District Council of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes to make a comprehensive study of civil service procedures of the city government and the school district.

The Chicago District Council, No. 42, embraces 10 locals of about 3,000 members, of whom some 2,000 are employes of the city or the sanitary district. Colonel Garey and his staff will make recommendations for improvements of civil service, which then will be presented to the local government officials involved by the AFSCME.

Unrest among city employes in Chicago has been growing since the civil service commission began holding examinations for a period of only two years in which exams were few and far between.

City employes of 20 years service or more, who have spent a lifetime in specialized fields as temporary employes, have been ranked out in the examinations because questions asked were of a textbook nature.

A local AFL union of engineers, architects and draftsmen struck 3 months ago, charging the job classification system was faulty. After a brief walkout they won an agreement from the mayor and city officials that a committee would be appointed to overhaul the job classification system.

Patrick A. McCabe and Adrian L. Mitten, international representatives of the AFSCME, said the union's investigation is not aimed at the civil service commissioners personally, but was intended to be helpful and constructive criticism of the system.

It is hoped to find out even what the civil service rules are," said Mc-Cabe. "We had to spend a day in city hall and dig around to obtain a copy of the city service rules and regulations, and found they had no written edition later than 1946. The published rules of the sanitary district are as bad."

"We intend to print the rules and put them into the hands of our members. Enormous numbers of our members have been doing a competent job for years without civil service status. There is tired of all the sanitary district employes are still on a temporary appointment basis."

Alderman Joseph P. Ropa, chairman of the city council committee on civil service and municipal institutions, said the union's charges were the serving of thorough investigation.

"I think the examinations that have been conducted recently are entirely fair," the alderman told a newspaper reporter. "There are many temporary, practical men working for the city, and they could not pass academic tests based upon theoretical or general knowledge not connected with their experience. I doubt if I could pass one of these fancy aptitude tests."

ITALY ABOLISHES BREAD CARDS

Rome.—The last reminder of a food shortage in Italy—bread rationing cards—will disappear Aug. 1, the government announced. Tossed into the waste basket along with the bread cards will be cards for rice, wheat paste, flour and related products. Normal grain supplies and a good wheat harvest have eased the once-critical situation.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

Russia Admits Having Slave Labor, But Refuses to Let UN Investigate It

Geneva. — The Soviet Union acknowledged the existence of a "corrective" labor system in the Soviet Union and asserted before the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations that the Soviet government would continue to subject to this system those who "undermine the Socialist system."

Lashing out at Britain for having introduced a copy of the Soviet forced labor code as the basis for discussion of the problem in the council, Dr. Anatoly A. Arutiunian, chief Soviet delegate, defended the Soviet system as a humane method of reforming criminals and wrongdoers by educative labor, and refused to accept a United Nations investigation of it.

The question of forced labor in Communist countries was brought up by a United States proposal. A resolution introduced by Wilbur Thorp, Assistant Secretary of State, calls for establishment of an 11-man United Nations commission of experts empowered to visit any member country of the world organization and to hold hearings concerning forced labor practices anywhere in the world.

United States sources made it clear after the meeting that the proposal for a commission empowered to hold hearings represented an important modification of the United States government to go all out into the forced labor question.

"I would like to make very clear," Mr. Thorp said, "that the position of the United States is that where there is a special issue, where there is an evil in the world, we are prepared to accept a measure of impartial inquiry, wherever the chips may fall."

Mr. Thorp had special praise for Norway, which submitted a report to the United Nations admitting the existence of forced labor, telling for what offenses it was imposed and what persons were subject to it (up to 30 May, 1949), and stating that Norway would welcome a full, impartial inquiry into forced labor in Norway.

"This," Mr. Thorp said, "is the highest moral level at which a government could reply to such an inquiry."

Anti-Union Charge by Taft Exposed as Raw Falsehood By Union in His State

Washington, D. C.—Senator Taft's antiunion propaganda has been exposed as false by a union in his own state—Youngstown Local 200 of the International Typographical Union. The whole story was revealed in the "Congressional Record," but has been completely ignored by the daily press.

What happened was that Taft, in his attempt to defend the Taft-Hartley Act's ban on the "closed shop," singled out the Youngstown "Tryon" as an example.

In a speech on the Senate floor, and in subsequent radio broadcasts, declared that the Youngstown local barred from employment a small town Ohio printer who learned his trade in a nonunion shop. Taft's exact words:

"He (the printer) went to Youngstown and sought a position on the newspaper. He went to the union and told him, No, we will not take you into the union. You learned in a nonunion shop. If you want to go through 6 years of apprenticeship, all right. Otherwise you cannot be a printer in Youngstown." Every shop in Youngstown is a union shop."

Then Taft declared, "it is this arbitrary power against the individual to which I object in the closed shop."

What are the facts? President M. M. Martin of the Youngstown local gave them in a letter to Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.), and it was inserted in the Congressional Record.

"To the best of my knowledge, no printer has ever been denied membership in the Youngstown Typographical Union, in its more than 65 years of existence, because he learned his trade in a nonunion shop," Martin asserted.

"It is not new, nor has it ever been, the policy of the Youngstown union to deny membership to men or women who learned their trade in other than union shops. Nor has it ever been the policy of any local affiliated with the International Typographical Union to bar any printer because he learned his trade in a nonunion shop.

"I myself joined the union in 1910 after having learned my trade in a small, nonunion town."

Then Martin submitted a list of all applicants for membership in the Youngstown local during the past 12 years, with the date of initiation, the shop in which they learned their trade, and whether each shop was union or nonunion.

In that time, 34 were accepted, 19 of whom—more than half—received their training in nonunion shops. Two were rejected for other reasons, and 3 withdrew their applications. Martin said he has sworn affidavit to back up all of these exams.

Equally false, Martin said, was Taft's statement that "every shop in Youngstown is a union shop." Martin explained that he "wished that were true," but actually Youngstown has 9 union print shops and 8 nonunion, he said.

"We're glad Senator Taft pointed his finger at us, because it gave us an opportunity of showing the utter falsehood of these false charges against our great union really are," Martin added.

He demanded that Taft "retract his statements," but up to date the Ohio Senator has made no apology.

Chicago Teachers To Get Pay Raise in September

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—When school starts on September, 20,000 employes of the Chicago Board of Education will receive pay increases averaging about 7½ percent, assuming that the state-schools legislation, somewhat resembling the federal aid to education bills but on a smaller scale.

As a result of pressure campaigns led by the Chicago Teachers Union and other organized groups of workers in the schools, the Illinois legislature voted in June to approve a 2½ percent sales tax to distribute to local school districts.

Principal source of revenue to support the schools always has been the tax on real estate and personal property. But in recent years, the real estate and personal property taxes have reached the limit of the property owners in Illinois are crying for relief, and the mayor of Chicago is against any further rise.

Meanwhile, the sales tax, begun in Illinois during the depression, turned into an enormous source of state revenue as the period of inflation and rapid turnover of goods and services. State aid to schools is a slice of this revenue.

Like federal aid to education bills designed to help the poorer states with funds from the richer, the Illinois state aid bills equalize amounts spent for educational purposes of the local districts.

The new legislation made an additional $3,126,000 in state funds available to the Chicago school system for the school year of 1949, of which $2,626,000 will be used to increase the pay of teachers, maintenance men and other workers.

In a conference with representatives of some 25 workers' organizations interested, William R. Traynor, president of the school board, said on Aug. 3 that raises would be given to all grade school teachers, $350 for high school teachers, $500 for grade school principals, $600 for high school principals and 7½ percent straight for nonteaching personnel.

With increases, salaries of grade school teachers will range from $2,500 a year minimum to $4,500 maximum; of high school teachers, from $2,900 to $5,150; of grade school principals, from $4,200 to $6,500, and of high school principals, from $7,100 to $7,800.

John M. Fewkes, president of the Chicago Teachers Union, said he was satisfied the increases were the best that could be had, although they still don't enable teachers to keep up with the cost of living.

"Chicago teachers are not as well off today as in 1933, in the relationship of pay to living costs," said Fewkes.

Anti-Union Bias of Taft-Hartley Act

Washington, D. C.—The antiunion bias of the Taft-Hartley Act was highlighted once again when the NLRB ruled that time-honored hiring practices in the construction industry are now illegal, according to an article in the AFL's Research Report.

The issue arose when the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers (Ind.) brought charges of discrimination in employment against the Ingalls Hamm Drayage Co. of St. Louis, Mo. The company had hired workers to install machinery at a project at Decatur, Ala., on the basis of referrals from the Decatur local of the Carpenters Union, AFL.

The IAM charged that 7 of its members had been refused employment because they had not been referred to the company by the Carpenters Union.

The board ruled that in hiring solely on the basis of references from the Carpenters Union, the company had violated Section 8(a)(3) of the Taft-Hartley Act which states that it is an unfair labor practice for an employer "by discrimination in regard to hire . . . to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization."

In making its decision, the board, at least by implication, acknowledged the lack of realism in the Taft-Hartley provision. By outlawing the closed shop itself of any responsibility for the chaotic consequences which might result from its decision by stating that it had "no authority to engraft exceptions upon the Congressional enactment." Yet the closed shop practice was sanctioned by custom in the building trades industry for years or may be thought economically desirable by employers.

This ruling had been expected for some time. Hiring hall practices in the maritime industry had already been declared illegal and it has only been a matter of time before the same ruling hit practices in the construction field would be applied.

This decision will have widespread and profound effects on labor relations and employers may continue to follow traditional hiring practices, this arrangement can now be upset at any time by the employer or by an individual who was denied employment because he was not referred by the union.

Both workers and employers have benefited from the hiring practices in the construction industry. Workers have approved the system whereby the union has been out of a job for the longest period of time are entitled to claim the next available opening. Employers have been assured that proper standards of experience and efficiency would be maintained on building projects by referral only of properly qualified unionmen. Both only one alternative "economically desirable" and "necessary" (to quote from the board decision) practices, which have been developed over a period of many decades, have been thrown out the window.

LABOR ASKS FEDERAL AID TO SPUR NEW ENGLAND JOBS

Boston.—Representatives of all factions of organized labor in Massachusetts conferred with Secretary of Commerce Charles D. Sawyer at the Custom House as the federal government began its "on-the-spot" survey of areas hard hit by unemployment. Facts and figures revealed to the Secretary drove home the need for government "props" in the industrial economy of the Bay State.

The Secretary of Commerce was assured that labor's first interest was in continuing men on jobs in private industry, if possible, rather than the alternative of a program of public works.

BRITISH LABOR LEADERS TO STUDY U. S. METHODS

Washington.—A group of British trade union officials will arrive in this country in October for a 6-weeks' study of TVA's technical assistance program.

The British labor officials will study operations of engineering trade unions which have been helpful in increasing productivity and efficiency. Their studies will range through all aspects of labor participation in production matters including such factors as job evaluation, piece layout, efficient work allocation, maximum use of mechanical handling devices and quality control.

Pictured above is Gov. Luis Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico receiving a solid gold, lifetime membership card in the International Typographical Union of New York City, Local 15. Presentation was made in the governor's suite at the Plaza Hotel in New York by Jack Townsend, president of Local 15, an affiliate of the International Mailers, Employes and Assistants Interstate and International Union, AFL. The presentation was made to the governor "in recognition of his contributions to the economic well-being of the people of Puerto Rico, and the cause of organized labor and of liberalism."

AFL Wins Fight to Prevent Purge Of Liberal NLRB Trial Examiners

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor won an important fight against an attempt to pack government agencies with trial examiners satisfactory to big business and to purge those who looked like progressives.

A panel of "experts" which had been using the "packing" racket for a huff, because the Civil Service Commission overruled some of its findings.

The examiners are the men who conduct the preliminary hearings in all kinds of cases of great significance, arising under such federal laws as the Securities and Exchange Act, the Interstate Commerce Act, the Federal Trade Act and the Taft-Hartley Act. They report back their findings, and the boards, from the Federal Trade boards and commissions administering these laws base their decisions to a great extent. Obviously, whoever can pack the examiners can color the findings and influence the ultimate decisions.

At about the time the Taft-Hartley Act was passed, the reactionary 80th Congress also put through a law creating an advisory board to pass on the qualifications of trial examiners, including those already on the federal payroll and those to be hired in the future. Bar Association officials immediately exerted pressure to gain control of the Advisory Board.

The commission yielded and named a panel of 6. Two of these turned out to be former presidents of the Bar Association who had represented antilabor corporations prosecuted under the Wagner Act. Two others were former chairmen of Bar Association committees. Another came from a firm serving as special counsel to the National Association of Manufacturers.

Some time ago, this panel, after secret sessions, came down with its "tentative" findings. Under that, 54 examiners out of 218 were marked for dismissal, mostly in the National Labor Relations Board and Interstate Commerce Commission, and mostly those considered liberals.

The AFL and other organizations protested the purge. As a result, the panel reconsidered its action, and in its report withdrew all but a number who faced ouster to 18.

The Civil Service Commission findings weren't "okayed" on all counts by the Civil Service Commission, the panel quit. Angrily, it denied charges that it was incompetent.

An AFL attorney welcomed the resignation of the panel as a "good decision."

However, the fight isn't over," he said. "The register of approved trial examiners prepared by that big business panel is packed with a lot of men who are cronies of Bar Association leaders or have connections with corporation law firms.

"For years, trial examiner vacancies will be filled from that register, and thus the evil effect will continue indefinitely. There's only one real way to clear the air—that is, to throw out the whole register and start over from scratch."

Business Is Now Picking Up As 'Depression' Scare Fades

Green, Tobin Scoff at Fears

Boston.—AFL President William Green and Secretary of Labor Tobin expressed agreement in public addresses here that the nation's economy is on a sound basis and light-there is no serious threat of an immediate depression. They spoke at the convention of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green stressed that mass purchasing power must be kept at a high level in order to provide a ready cash market for the products of farms and factories.

AFL unions, he said, are therefore going to continue to press for wage increases wherever such increases are justified by business conditions.

Exorbitantly high prices, the AFL chief declared, were an important factor in depressing sales. He said that when prices are high, as in the clothing industry, consumers respond with large-scale purchases and profits were not reduced.

Secretary of Labor Tobin emphasized the need for the maintenance and broadening of the social security system as a prop for a constantly growing economy, in which "we can go forward to a greater prosperity than we have ever known before."

He and Mr. Green both urged Congress to increase the statutory minimum federal wage to at least 75 cents an hour.

N. Y. Speeds Public Works

Albany, N. Y.—Gov. Dewey ordered a speed-up in the state's $578,000,000 public works program to combat rising unemployment. His action was based on recommendations of a special interdepartmental committee that found joblessness a serious "but not alarming" problem in the state at this time.

In accordance with a suggestion from the special committee headed by Frank Corsi, state industrial commissioner, Mr. Dewey ordered the Public Works Council to place more particular emphasis on projects in areas where unemployment was most severe.

The governor's action parallels President Truman's "pump-priming" order of last month to federal construction agencies in that it provides for speed-up activities rather than in that it does not involve any increase in public spending beyond that already authorized.

In his announcement Mr. Dewey said that he agreed wholeheartedly with his committee's recommendation.

"We have a reserve of public construction ready to go and, I am happy to report, have the money in the bank to pay for it," he said. "This money has been carefully saved by the state administration for just such purposes and for just such times.

"Our public works program is the first line in our defense against recession. But behind this line we have a solid foundation of social legislation designed to safeguard and assist the unemployed worker.

"Our unemployment insurance fund is now nearly $1,000,000,000 and our unemployment insurance benefits have been increased more than twice in the past 6 years; our public welfare system is well organized and the state now pays 80 percent of all home relief costs; minimum wage protection has been constantly increased; workmen's compensation payments have been continually liberalized and the state will soon place into operation its first sickness disability benefit program."

Unemployed Total Higher

Washington. — Unemployment passed the 4,000,000 mark in July for the first time since January, 1942, the Census Bureau reported in an estimated total of 4,096,000 for the week ending July 9 was about 330,000 higher than the month before.

Total civilian employment, however, rose to 59,720,000, the highest figure in July.

The gain of employment combined with the Census Bureau's estimates indicated a continuation of the summer upswing in factory hires.

However, in contrast with the last 2 months, Census Bureau said, the rise in unemployment between June and July cannot be attributed to the entry of young persons into the labor force. Adult workers accounted for most of the increase in July.

Although many youngsters were apparently able to obtain summer jobs, they still constituted a substantial part of the unemployed. About 700,000 of those looking for work in July were teen-age boys and girls. In April the corresponding number was 450,000.

As compared with July a year ago, total employment was about 1,900,000 fewer and unemployment was correspondingly higher.

The unemployment was near its peak in the July survey week, the bureau reported, as nearly as 5,000,000 persons were away from their jobs. Also, because of the incidence of the July 4 holiday in the survey week, many additional millions worked less than a full week.

Official Reports Find New Cheering Signs On Economic Front

Washington, D. C.—Business is picking up all over the country and the widely heralded depression is not likely to eventuate, official reports from many quarters indicate.

These outstanding developments combine to form a wave of optimism in the nation's capital:

1. An increase in business loans, the first such rise in 7 months, was announced by the Federal Reserve Board.

2. Retail stores were reported to have started large-scale buying to replace depleted stocks, but inventories were still at a low level, indicating that the buying trend will continue to step up for fall and Christmas shopping needs.

3. Construction activity reached record-breaking proportions in July, outstripping even the high levels of a year ago.

4. The total employment in the nation reached a new high for this year in August, although at the same time the number of unemployed went over 4 million for the first time in 7 years.

5. Earl R. Muir, spokesman for the American Bankers Association, testified before a Senate committee that business is improving and declared there is no danger of a real depression. He said $75 billions of dollars in savings and deposits are in the hands of the American people.

6. The summer recovery in the Steel Markets was considered an omen of expanding industrial activity.

7. The rise was the first for business purposes had been declining in record-breaking fashion, until on July 20 they were $2,737,000,000 below the all-time high reached last December 31.

But yesterday the Federal Reserve Board reported that cash loans by banks in leading cities increased 19 million dollars in the week ended July 27. This brought them to a total of $12,200,000,000.

The rise was comparatively small and was considered due in large part to seasonal factors—business beginning to build up stocks for the fall and Christmas seasons.

But the fact that they rose at all, and thus reversed the long downtrend, was considered heartening by some officials, especially when taken in conjunction with other factors. These include a better-than-seasonal upturn in home-building, improved business in the textile and metals lines, and the summer recovery in the stock market.

The Commerce Department reported that industrial activity increased more than seasonally in July. This was largely due to a sharp pickup in the building of private homes.

New York State Federation Launches Greatest Political Drive on Record

Syracuse, N. Y.—Thomas A. Murphy, president of the New York State Federation of Labor, closed the organization's annual convention here with a declaration that "we have launched the State Federation of Labor on the greatest political offensive in its history."

"On the political front," said Mr. Murphy, "we have established a machinery for a state-wide political campaign of the type which has never been seen before. We have received assistance from office those who support the Taft-Hartley Act and the whole list of legislation aimed at shackling the American labor movement.

"We will call for the support of more than 3,000 AFL unions in this state in the fight into every one of the 45 congressional districts and into every election district in the 58 counties where we have even one member. We mean business and the results will be made evident this fall and in 1950."

Mr. Murphy, Harold C. Hanover, secretary-treasurer, and 14 of 15 vice presidents were reelected without opposition after being designated by the convention's Executive Committee.

It will be Mr. Murray's seventh term and Mr. Hanover's fourth.

Michael Rossiter a member of the Hod Carriers Union in Buffalo, was elected to a vice presidency to succeed Clarence F. Conroy also of Buffalo, who resigned. The administration's legislative agent, Irving Jaeneki former president of the Federation.

a proposed television authority. This would administer the field of television acting.

The Screen Actors, however, have stipulated that they cannot accept any agreement which does not affirm their jurisdiction over all acting on film, no matter for what outlet the film may be designed.

SENATE GROUP APPROVES FEDERAL PAY INCREASE

Washington.—The Senate Civil Service Committee announced it had approved a pay raise bill which would give an average boost of $128 a year to 850,000 of Uncle Sam's classified employes.

At the same time, the committee revealed it had "authorized" Senator Russell Long, son of the famous Huey, to fetch in a separate bill which would give all postmasters, regardless of size, a $120 pay raise and boost the salaries of assistants to members of Congress from $1,440 to $2,000 a year.

TALENT UNIONS CONFER ON TV JURISDICTION

Hollywood, Calif.—Delegates representing the constituent unions of the Associated Actors and Artists of America, the AFL entertainment organizational, devoted the opening session of their convention here to the presentation of arguments by the eastern talent unions designed to persuade the Screen Actors Guild to take part in a proposed television authority. This would administer the field of television acting.

The Screen Actors, however, have stipulated that they cannot accept any agreement which does not affirm their jurisdiction over all acting on film, no matter for what outlet the film may be designed.

WRITE FOR THIS RECORD; IT'S WORTH LISTENING TO

Washington, D. C.—Phonograph records of a speech by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.) on the importance of the 1950 elections are available at Labor's League for Political Education.

The speech—25 minutes in length—was made July 19 at a meeting of state and local LLPE leaders in Washington. Any union wanting one of the records may obtain it by writing to: Radio Dept., Labor's League for Political Education, 1525 H St. N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

AFL Union Leader Named to ECA Post

Washington. — Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul G. Hoffman announced the appointment, effective immediately, of Joseph D. Keenan of New York as labor adviser to the ECA Mission in Europe. Mr. Keenan will take over the duties previously performed by Irving Brown, labor adviser who is now chief of the Paris office.

Hogan, a member of the New York Stock Exchange, was elected president of that organization from 1934 to 1938. He was also chairman of the Allied Printing Trades Council, which represents 14 unions. In addition, he was chairman of the Labor Conference of Latin American Stereotypers and Electrotypers and Mr. Hanover's fourth.

During the entire war the AFL Union leader served as chairman of Draft Board No. 279, and in the labor-short years he was president of a group of 9 boards.

Mr. Hogan, 49, is a veteran of World War I. He is a member of the American Legion, the Catholic War Veterans, the Elks, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

ILGWU Local Wins Praise For Plan

Philadelphia.—National recognition is given this month by Fortune, organ of big business, to "new and ingenious scheme" of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, designed to stabilize the industry.

Fortune describes operation of the union's "Fair Income Fund," conceived by General Secretary Cole, a vice president of the ILGWU, from which Pennsylvania's 12,000 workers, employed in 275 shops, receive benefit payments to supplement their unemployment compensation during slack periods.

Cost of the program is borne by the employers, who pay 3½ percent of their payrolls into the fund which is jointly administered by the union and the employers' association, with Dr. George W. Taylor, of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, as public representative and chairman.